

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. SHERMAN)
introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on
Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of
2004, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Human
5 Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of
9 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean
10 Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public

1 Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R.
2 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
3 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012
4 (Public Law 112–172) were the products of broad,
5 bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of
6 human rights, transparency in the delivery of hu-
7 manitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee
8 protection.

9 (2) Fundamental human rights and humani-
10 tarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplor-
11 able, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulner-
12 able, and the congressional findings included in the
13 Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially ac-
14 curate today.

15 (3) The United States, which has the largest
16 international refugee resettlement program in the
17 world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the en-
18 actment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of
19 2004.

20 (4) In addition to the longstanding commitment
21 of the United States to refugee and human rights
22 advocacy, the United States is home to the largest
23 Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and
24 many people in the Korean-American community
25 have family ties to North Korea.

1 (5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the
2 United States, South Korea, and the United Nations
3 High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly
4 repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

5 (6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
6 served 25 years in the House of Representatives, in-
7 cluding as the Chairman and the Ranking Member
8 of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and
9 the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the rela-
10 tionship between the American and Korean peoples,
11 authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the
12 Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights,
13 and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R.
14 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
15 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012,
16 that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman
17 Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of
18 the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant
19 in helping the people of North Korea who struggle
20 daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the
21 North Korean regime”.

22 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

23 It is the sense of Congress that—

24 (1) the United States should continue to seek
25 cooperation from all foreign governments to allow

1 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
2 access to process North Korean refugees overseas
3 for resettlement and to allow United States officials
4 access to process refugees for resettlement in the
5 United States (if that is the destination country of
6 the refugees' choosing);

7 (2) the Secretary of State, through persistent
8 diplomacy by senior officials, including United
9 States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in
10 close cooperation with United States ally South
11 Korea, should make every effort to promote the pro-
12 tection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

13 (3) because North Koreans fleeing into China
14 face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their
15 forcible repatriation, the United States should urge
16 China to—

17 (A) immediately halt the forcible repatri-
18 ation of North Koreans;

19 (B) allow the United Nations High Com-
20 missioner for Refugees unimpeded access to
21 North Koreans inside China to determine
22 whether such North Koreans require protection
23 as refugees; and

24 (C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951
25 United Nations Convention Relating to the Sta-

tus of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to UNHCR Branch Office in the People's Republic of China (signed December 1, 1995).

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—

Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Sec-

tion 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended by striking “2017” in each place it appears and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN

HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sec-

tion 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

1 (e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH
2 KOREA.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North
3 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c))
4 is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

5 (f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 305 of the North
6 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is
7 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
8 ing “2017” and inserting “2022”.

9 **SEC. 5. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOV-**
10 **ERNORS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board
13 of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional
14 committees a report that—

15 (1) describes the status of current United
16 States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent
17 to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-
18 hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in ac-
19 cordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean
20 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a));
21 and

22 (2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to
23 such communication with the North Korean people,
24 including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and in-
25 expensive electronic means.

1 (b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
2 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include
3 a classified annex.

4 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
5 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” has the meaning given such term in section 5
7 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22
8 U.S.C. 7803).

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